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VIET 11-10
DAY LD

BY ARTHUR HIGBEE

SAIGON (UPI) -- HANOI ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES TODAY OF RESUMING SPY FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM FOLLOWING STEPPED-UP FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST TROOPS.

A U.S. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, DENIED THE CHARGES AND SAID, "WE DO NOT CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM."

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TRUCE DELEGATION ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING AMERICA SENT SR71 SPY PLANES TWICE LAST THURSDAY "TO CARRY OUT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER A NUMBER OF PROVINCES, INCLUDING HANOI AND HAIPHONG."

HANOI, WHICH HAS MADE SIMILAR CHARGES BEFORE, SAID THE ALLEGED AIR MISSIONS WERE IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE JAN. 28 CEASE-FIRE ACCORD, WHICH PROHIBITS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS.

THE SR71 USUALLY OPERATES AT A HEIGHT OF 14 MILES, BUT CAN CLIMB AS HIGH AS 17 MILES TO AVOID GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILES. THE AIRCRAFT IS THE SUCCESSOR TO THE U2 SPY PLANE IN WHICH GARY POWERS WAS SHOT DOWN OVER RUSSIA IN 1960.

HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, IN A BROADCAST MONITORED IN SAIGON TODAY, SAID THE ALLEGED SPY FLIGHTS TOOK PLACE "AT A TIME WHEN THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION WAS CLAMORING FOR WAR."

BOTH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND THE VIET CONG HAVE DESCRIBED THE RECENT RASH OF HEAVY FIGHTING AS THE START OF A NEW VIETNAM WAR.

THE SAIGON COMMAND HAS REPORTED EIGHT MAJOR BATTLES IN THE PAST SIX WEEKS, CONCEDEING HEAVY GOVERNMENT LOSSES IN THE FIGHTING.

IN THE PAST WEEK, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTED THE FALL OF THREE ARMY OUTPOSTS IN THE SOUTHERN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THE COMMUNISTS ROCKETED THE SPRAWLING BIEN HOA AIR BASE OUTSIDE SAIGON TUESDAY AND GOVERNMENT WARPLANES RETALIATED THE NEXT DAY BY BOMBARDING THE VIET CONG'S "CAPITAL" AT LOC NINH, 90 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION AGREED FRIDAY TO INVESTIGATE BOTH THE BIEN HOA AND LOC NINH ATTACKS.

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